THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."—ACTS XXII: 16.

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THE STATEHOOD INAUGURAL CELEBRATION.

WE give the account of the proceedings on January 6, in honor of Utah's admission into statehood. The report is taken almost entirely from the *Deseret News*.

Inaugural Day has been celebrated as no other in the history of Utah. In anticipation of the momentous occasion the citizens of the new State made extensive preparations to celebrate, and celebrate they did as never before. The city was thronged with visitors from outside points and, with the thousands of home people, made locomotion well nigh impossible through the public thoroughfares. The great procession that passed over the course previously published, under the direction of Grand Marshal Burton and aids, started to move very soon after schedule time and presented a magnificent spectacle as it wended its way to the Tabernacle, which it reached at noon, and which had crowded within its capacious walls more people than ever passed its portals in one assemblage before.

The decorations of the Tabernacle were most lavish and well chosen Spread out beneath the great central surface of the dome-like ceiling was "Old Glory," the largest American flag ever made. Its exact size is 75 by 150 feet. In the upper corner among the other stars was the forty-fifth, representing Utah. By means of an ingeniously devised incandescent light the new star cast its refulgent rays upon the patriotic thousands who sat in the gallery and auditorium below. From this great flag were numberless red, white and blue streamers running in all directions, uniting with an elaborate fringe of bunting and flags which decorated the face of the gallery. All the speaker's stands were most beautifully draped in the national colors, while a great American eagle surmounted the tower between the great pipes of the organ, and immediately below was the magic word "Utah"—a magnificent electrical creation.

On the speakers' stands were many prominent citizens.

Precisely at 12:15 Acting Governor Richards called the vast assemblage to order. He spoke very briefly and the substance of his remarks was as follows: "I feel very sensibly the great honor that the committee has conferred upon me in selecting me to fill this important position to-day. For nearly fifty years the people of Utah have been patiently and prayerfully waiting for this auspicious occasion—this blessed day. Ever since my childhood I have been taught that the time would come when the citizens of Utah would be accorded every political and civil right granted to their fellow citizens throughout the United States. Not less than three generations of people are living in this new State who have never cast a vote for a President of the United States. But on November next they will go to the polls and exercise that privilege that all freemen love so well. This is the proudest day of my life, and when I say that, I but express the feelings of at least a quarter of a million of people, who all join in saluting the new star and in giving thanks for the abandonment of Territorial bondage for that more perfect government to be found under Statehood."

The Sixteenth United States infantry band here rendered in a most artistic manner a very stirring selection which was well received by the audience.

Acting Governor Richards announced that President Woodruff was to have offered the opening prayer but that the state of his health was such as to prevent him from doing so. He had, however, prepared an invocation which would be delivered by President George Q. Cannon. It was as follows:

Almighty God, the Creator of heaven and earth, thou who art the God of nations and the Father of the spirits of all men, we humbly bow before Thee on this great occasion and recognize Thy wonder-working hand in the liberty which has come to the people of Utah. We thank Thee and praise Thy holy name for Thy mercy and Thy goodness, and we worship Thee as the Ruler of the Universe! When we gaze upon these fertile valleys with their abundant products of field and garden, of fruit and flower, of milk and honey, their flocks and herds, their swelling streams and flowing fountains, their pleasant homes and prosperous inhabitants; upon the grand mountains which have yielded vast treasures of useful and precious minerals; upon the marts of trade, the hives of industry, the houses of learning and of religion; and upon the signs of progress in art and science, in taste and refinement, and contrast these with the barren and silent wastes which greeted the eyes of the Pioneers when they first looked upon these dry sage lands less than half a century ago, our souls are filled with wonder and with praise? While hardy hands and skillful brains have worked unceasingly, and enterprising minds have directed the toilers who labored to bring about this splendid transformation, it has been Thy blessing and Thy guiding Spirit which has inspired both the leaders and the followers, and to Thee we give the glory. And now, when the efforts of several decades to secure the priceless boon of perfect political liberty, often appearing to be in vain, have at length been crowned

with glorious success, we feel that to Thee, our Father and our God, we are indebted for this inestimable blessing. Through many years of estrangement from our fellow citizens afar off who knew us not, we have struggled for the recognition which is given to us to-day. Thou knowest all hearts and art our witness that in the misunderstandings and difference that have occurred, the people of these mountain vales have been loyal upholders of the Constitution of our country and those republican institutions which Thou didst inspire the fathers of the nation to institute and establish. We desire, our Father, to maintain them inviolate. And now that we have acquired, through Thy blessing, the power to aid in their preservation, we pray Thee to bless us so to do and to secure that liberty to others which we prize for ourselves. We pray Thee to bless the President of the United States and his cabinet, that they may be inspired to conduct the affairs of this great nation in wisdom, justice, and equity, that its rights may be maintained at home and abroad and that all its citizens may enjoy the privileges of free men. Bless Thou the legislative and judicial branches of the government, that wholesome laws may be enacted and administered in the spirit of righteousness and equity. Bless the army and the navy as the defenders of the right and as a terror to those who would break down the bulwarks of our liberties. So shall the nation flourish and shine as the beacon light of freedom to all the world. We pray for the officers of fair Utah now waiting before Thee for Thy favor, clothed with the spotless robes of newly endowed statehood in her allotted place among her sisters of the Union. Bless, we pray Thee, the governor, the judges, the legislators and all who have been chosen to occupy official stations in this commonwealth, that they may understand the grave responsibilities which rest upon them, that they may be true to their official oaths, and that under their administration this young and vigorous State may move forward, gathering strength and greatness as it grows, until it shall be the pride and admiration of all beholders. May the Legislative Assembly about to meet be directed by Thee in preparing a code for the regulation of the State, and in choosing men to represent the people in the Senate of the United States. Bless the inhabitants of Utah in every part of its domain, that they may dwell together in love and peace, and unite to promote the general welfare, develop those abundant resources which await the skill and enterprise and labor of the thrifty and industrious, to make this a place of richness and beauty unexcelled throughout the land. Our Father, we rejoice before Thee with full hearts this glorious day. We invoke Thy blessing upon all who are present and those who are absent, upon the rich and the poor, upon the strong and the weak, upon the healthy and the sick, and pray Thee to remember and bless them each according to their needs and just desires, and may all partake of the spirit of this joyous occasion and of the benefits which have come to us. And may the privileges of free government be extended to every land and clime, until tyranny and oppression shall be broken down to rise no more, until all nations shall unite for the common good, that war may cease, that the voice of strife may be hushed, that universal brotherhood may prevail, and Thou, O God, shall be honored

everywhere as the Everlasting Father and the King of peace! We dedicate to Thee this new born State. Be Thou our guide, our strength and our defense forever; we ask all in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

The great chorus of 1,000 voices here arose, and sang with unbounded enthusiasm amid the effective waving of American flags, the "Star Spangled Banner." The number was followed by a stirring applause on the part of the multitude within the Tabernacle.

Chairman Richards here introduced, amidst uncontrolled applause and cheers, Hon. Joseph L. Rawlins, who read President Cleveland's proclamation announcing the admission of Utah into the Union, as published in full last week. At the conclusion of the reading of the proclamation, Mr. Rawlins turned to Mr. Wells and said: "And now I have the honor and the pleasure to present you, Heber M. Wells, the first Governor of Utah, the pen which was used by the President of the United States, ten minutes before the hour of midnight on the 16th day of July, 1894, signing the bill under which Utah has become a State in the American Union. I present it to you, in order that it may be kept among the archives of the State of Utah."

The historic token was received with a graceful bow and wave of the hand on the part of the new Governor, after which the Denhalter band under the direction of Professor Anton Pedersen rendered in its usual skillful style a very appropriate selection.

One of the most thrilling incidents connected with the proceedings came when Acting Governor Richards arose and said:

"Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the new State and the proclamation of the President, the hour has arrived when the Federal government is to withdraw from the control of the affairs of the Territory, and to surrender it up to the people; and to the native son of Utah, who has been chosen to be the Governor of the State of Utah. It is fitting that this should be done in this public manner, and in the performance of this pleasing duty, and, as the Governor of the Territory of Utah I now surrender to your favored servant, the Executive office, upon his taking the oath prescribed by the Constitution, which will now be administered by the Chief Justice of the new State, the Hon. Charles S. Zane."

Governor Wells took the oath as administered by Chief Justice Zane, and at a given signal the booming of artillery was heard from Capitol hill and continued as the oath was also administered by the Chief Justice to the other state officers.

The big chorus here rendered Stephen's new song, "Utah, We Love Thee."

Secretary of State Hammond read a proclamation convening the Legislature in session in the Joint City and County building.

Governor Wells then delivered his inaugural address as follows:

It is an important occasion that has brought us together to-day under the spacious roof of this historic building. We are here to join in the ceremonies attending the birth of a new state to the Union. The circumstances surrounding the birth are most happy and auspicious. It is proper therefore, that we indulge in mutual congratulations and rejoicings.

First and foremost let us congratulate the Pioneers—that heroic band of patriots who blazed the way for western civilization—who built the bridges and killed the snakes—who turned the waters upon the burning soil and wrung from desolation the bounteous harvests which we are reaping—who planted the stars and stripes on Ensign peak, and in the name of freedom began the work which we are consummating now. It is nearly half a century since, with tired feet, the Pioneers first entered the valley of the Great Salt Lake, and many of that illustrious hundred and forty-three, whose courage and prowess beat down the barriers in a thousand miles of trackless wilderness, overcome at last by the fatigues of added years, have laid their weary bodies down to rest where sleep the brave and the just! We turn our thoughts to them to-day, and with hearts bursting with gratitude, we speak their names and tell anew their valorous deeds in hallowed reverence. To those of the Pioneers who have survived those early hardships and are here to participate with us in the general joy of this occasion, let us yield the place of honor, as the founders of our glorious commonwealth, and pay them the homage due their noble work.

As for those of us who followed in their wake, whether we came to Utah in the slow moving prairie schooner of frontier days, or in the lightning express train of more recent years, or whether born upon the soil, let us clasp hands upon this natal day and congratulate each other upon the happy solution of all past contentions and our succession to the full rights and privileges of citizenship in a free and sovereign State of the grandest republic the world has ever seen.

And while felicitating ourselves and our State upon her admission into the Union, let us not omit to congratulate the Union upon the acquisition of another commonwealth of magnificent proportions and superb possibilities. The grandeur of wealth with which nature has endowed her, the intelligence, industry, and thrift of her people, energized by the vigor of her wonderful climate, give assurance that Utah will be a tower of strength to the national fabric supporting with sturdy might her share of the public burden and forming an element of national greatness which can but redound to the honor and glory of the republic.

So that both State and Nation have cause for exultation upon Utah's statehood—The State, because of the great benefaction of constitutional government bestowed by a wise and generous Congress; the Nation, because of the addition of a new commonwealth, pledged to the perpetuity of the Union, and possessed of infinite treasures which the State, upon her admission lays at the feet of the Nation. If I were asked to enumerate in more specific terms the riches that Utah affords the country as recompense for her Statehood, I should say she offers the gold and silver and lead and copper and iron of her mountains, the luxurious soil of her valleys, a matchless life-saving climate, a most efficient public school system, and the gratitude of a happy, homogeneous, patriotic people. She offers homes to settlers, investments to capitalists, work to laborers, health to invalids, attractiveness to pleasure seekers, opportunity to fortune hunters; Utah to-day stretches forth her arms and beckons to the densely peopled districts of the East to come out and share her glories. She lifts up her

voice in loyalty and love of country, and to the support and perpetuity of of the Union, of which she becomes an integral part, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, her quarter of a million people pledge anew their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

It is usual at such a time as this, marking as it does an epoch in history, to permit the pertinent incidents of the past, leading up to the fruition of the present, to be reviewed and contemplated. The long period of Utah's probation, covering a period of nearly half a century, strewn as it is with thorns and roses, invests her history with a charm and interest more than usually inviting, and so I shall proceed to a brief recital of those events which may be said to constitute the evolution of Utah's statehood.

The first effort of the people to secure constitutional government was in 1849, eighteen months after the advent of the Pioneers, and one year after the signing of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, by which the soil they occupied was ceded from Mexico to the United States. A call for a convention was issued "to consider the political needs of the community." It was addressed to "all citizens of that portion of Upper California lying east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains." The convention assembled at Salt Lake City in March, and decided to petition Congress for a territorial form of government, and to organize, pending congressional action, a provisional state government. A committee appointed to draft and report a constitution for the temporary State of Deseret, consisted of Albert Carrington, Joseph L. Heywood, Wm. W. Phelps, David Fullmer, John S. Fullmer, Chas. C. Rich, John Taylor, Parley P. Pratt, John M. Bernhisel, and Erastus Snow. The convention continued its deliberations on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of March, and adopted the constitution reported by the committee. Its preamble was as follows:

Whereas, a large number of citizens of the United States, before and since the treaty of peace with the Republic of Mexico, emigrated to, and settled in that portion of the territory of the United States lying west of the Rocky Mountains, and in the great interior basin of Upper California, and

Whereas, By reason of said treaty, all civilization originating from the Republic of Mexico became abrogated; and

Whereas, The Congress of the United States has failed to provide a form of civil government for the territory so acquired, or any portion thereof; and

Whereas, Civil governments and laws are necessary for the security, peace, and prosperity of society; and

Whereas, It is a fundamental principle in all republican governments that all political power is inherent in the people, and the governments instituted for their protection, security and benefit should emanate from the same.

Therefore, your committee beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following Constitution until the Congress of the United States shall otherwise provide for the government of the territory hereinafter named and described by admitting us into the Union. We, the people, grateful to the Supreme Being for the blessings hitherto enjoyed, and feeling our dependence on Him for a continuation of those blessings, do ordain and establish a free and independent government, by the name of the State of Deseret, including all the territory of the United States within the following boundaries, to wit: Commencing at the 33 degree of north latitude,

where it crosses the 108 degree of longitude west of Greenwich; thence running south and west to the boundary of Mexico, thence west to and down the main channel of the Gila River (or the northern line of Mexico,) and on the northern boundary of Lower California to the Pacific ocean; thence along the coast northwesterly to the 118 degree 30 minutes of west longitude; thence north to where said line intersects the dividing ridge of the Sierra Nevada mountains; thence north along the summit of the Sierra Nevada mountains to the dividing range of mountains that separate the waters flowing into the Columbia from the waters running into the Great Basin; thence easterly along the dividing range of mountains that separate said waters flowing into the Columbia River on the north, from the waters flowing into the Great Basin on the south, to the summit of the Wind River chain of mountains; thence southeast and south of the dividing range of mountains that separate the waters flowing into the Gulf of Mexico from the waters flowing into the Gulf of California, to the place of beginning, as set forth in a map drawn by Charles Preuse, and published by order of the Senate of the United States in 1848."

The Constitution provided that the seat of government should be at Salt Lake City, and the other provisions were not essentially different from constitutions of our day. The election of officers for the provisional state government took place at Salt Lake City, on Monday, March 12, 1849, when the following ticket was elected:

Brigham Young, Governor; Willard Richards, Secretary; Newel K. Whitney, Treasurer; Heber Kimball, Chief Justice; John Taylor and N. K. Whitney, Associate Justices; Daniel H. Wells, Attorney General; Horace S. Eldredge, Marshal; Albert Carrington, Assessor and Collector; Joseph L. Heywood, Surveyor of Highways. Almon W. Babbitt was appointed a delegate to Washington, to present the public documents to Congress with credentials as delegate to the House of Representatives from the provisional State of Deseret, and late in the year 1849 he arrived at the Nation's capital, and procured the presentation of the documents to the United States Senate by Hon. Stephen A. Douglas on the 27th of December of that year. The House of Representatives, however, declined to admit Delegate Babbitt to a seat in that body. The committee on elections, in its report upon his petition asking to be admitted, said:

The admission of Mr. Babbitt would be a quasi recognition of the legal existence of the State of Deseret; and no act should be done by the House which, even by implication, may give force and vitality to a political organization extra constitutional and independent of the laws of the United States.

The committee, therefore, recommended the adoption of a resolution stating that it was inexpedient to admit Mr. Babbitt to a seat in the House as a Delegate from the "alleged State of Deseret." By a majority vote the resolution passed, and Colonel Babbitt was accordingly denied admission. The Senate, however, after a delay of nearly nine months, on September 7, 1850, passed a bill providing for the organization of the Territory of Utah, and two days later the bill passed the House and was approved by President Fillmore. This was the origin of the "Organic Act," under which our territorial government has been conducted literally from that day to this.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1896.

NO WORLDLY ADVANTAGES PROMISED.

VOLUME after volume could be written concerning the supposed objects and aims of the Latter-day Saints, by people who have never taken the trouble to inquire particularly into the matter, and in all these volumes the truth would be almost entirely lacking. So many things have already been written on this subject by irresponsible parties who desired to sell their books more than to relate facts, that it is astonishing to find what people have been led to believe.

Within the last few weeks several individuals have called at this office, or attended the meetings at the chapel, whose only idea was that there might be a chance to better their financial condition by professing themselves converted to the doctrines of the Latter-day Saints. Some one had evidently told them that the Saints were so very anxious for additions to their Church, that they would take any one who might present himself and immediately provide for him something better than he had before, pay for his emigration to the United States, and guarantee him the means of making a good living forever after. One man went so far as to say that he would not mind joining the Church if it would be the means of finding him work. Others have taken particular pains to inquire as to the steps necessary to be emigrated if they should be baptized.

This notion, that the main desire of the missionaries is to increase the number of baptisms regardless of the class of people baptized, is as absurd as most of the other reports that have been circulated in the past, and might, with a very little thought, be known to be ridiculous, without ever speaking to a member of the Church. In the first place it must be remembered that whoever becomes a Latter-day Saint is expected to be henceforth somewhat like those who are already in the Church. If selfishness is at the bottom of the move, it will be only a very short time until the one baptized will discover that he has made a very great mistake, for the whole trend of Mormonism is to cultivate unselfishness. Suppose one of this selfish class should be baptized, and immediately afterwards be ordained to the Priesthood and sent out to preach the Gospel for a year or two, trusting in God for his reward. This is no more than was done in numerous instances in the early days of the Church both in England and America. Preaching under those conditions is exactly what is now done by all the missionaries. A selfish person would immediately withdraw from the Church, and there could be no advantage derived by that organization from anything of this kind; rather would it be a hind-

rance, for these people would say they had been deceived. Matters would not be improved by taking one of this class to Utah, for there the Church does not sustain its members in a financial way unless they are unable to assist themselves; on the other hand the principles of tithing, temple donations, and other offerings would instantly expose the selfish nature of one who had expected a life of ease without any particular effort of his own. Had the Church pursued this policy of paying people for joining it, there is every probability that it would have become disorganized years ago, for there must have been some who would be obliged to work to sustain the others, and this would have led to disunion.

The greatest object that the Elders of the Church have in going to the nations of the earth is to fulfil the commandments of God to preach the Gospel to every creature. They have no desire to baptize anyone who is not worthy; and worthiness can be shown only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, sincere and godly sorrow for sin, and a true repentance. When these signs are manifested the Elders take great pleasure in leading the convert into the water for baptism. But there could be no pleasure attached to the baptism of one who was submitting to the ordinance simply because he desired to better himself in worldly affairs.

"But," one says, "don't the Latter-day Saints claim that all who have emigrated have become better off than they were before? Their writings are replete with glowing accounts of the prosperity of the Saints wherever they have settled, and regardless of the kind of a country they have gone to." It is true that most of those who have gone to Utah for the sake of Mormonism are in better circumstances than they were in the places from which they emigrated—there are a few exceptions, however,—and scarcely any have a desire to return permanently to their former homes; but this must not be the reason why a person joins the Church. Unless he is willing to forego almost anything of a worldly nature, put himself in the hands of God and go to the ends of the earth if called upon to preach the Gospel, sacrifice time, talents, and means, perhaps be disowned by his relatives and most intimate friends, submit to indignities of various kinds at the hands of those who should treat him with the utmost kindness—unless he is willing to sacrifice even life, it is possible that he could not endure all the trials that Mormonism might bring him.

It is true that this picture has a brighter side; those who in the past have been called upon to endure these afflictions have been buoyed up with a hope that cannot be obtained in any other way than by putting entire trust in God. Whatever sufferings have been endured by the Latter-day Saints—and there are very few who have not had some for the sake of their faith—they have always been more than repaid, as Job was when he had proved his fidelity to God. It is the reward of these sacrifices that has made the Saints the prosperous, happy, and contented people that they are. Let it always be borne in mind, however, that God requires the proof that one can be trusted with blessings, and that he is willing to forego the pleasure of them all; then will He verify His promise that all things shall be added to those who seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

It is a matter for sincere congratulation among the Latter-day Saints that so few of the characters described in the beginning of this article have crept in among them. The Saints are a peculiar people in many ways, but not in the sense that they are an inferior community in any particular. They claim to be more virtuous and upright for having become Latter-day Saints; they certainly are not inferior physically, and the statistics show that they are among the foremost intellectually. They expect to lead the world in all of these directions before many years, and they look for this result to come on account of their doing, at the hazard of other things, what God has commanded them.

It would be impossible for them to accomplish these wonderfully grand and glorious results if they had to hire people to become one with them. They desire to give the honest in heart the privilege of enjoying the blessings of the Gospel as they enjoy them, and for this reason they do what they are doing. They prefer to have one of this class rather than a thousand who would be almost sure to apostatize when the first little difficulty arose. B.

RELEASE.—On account of sickness Elder William O. Newbold has been released from laboring as Traveling Elder in the Sheffield Conference, to return home January 31, 1896.

LIVERPOOL CONFERENCE NOTICE.—The Liverpool Conference will be held in the Latter-day Saints' Chapel, 15 Bittern Street, Great Orford Street, Liverpool, on Sunday, February 23, 1896. Meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 and 6:30 p.m.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE NOTICE.—A District Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints, will be held on Sunday, February 9, at the Odd Fellows Hall, 38 Pembury Street, Sittingbourne. Special Elders of the Church will be in attendance. Meetings at 10 a. m., 2:30 and 6:30 p.m.—WALTER JARVIS, Clerk.

FROM VARIOUS MISSIONARY FIELDS.

PRESIDENT GEORGE C. NAEGLE writes from Berne, Switzerland, January 15, 1896: Your letter was found awaiting me on our return from conference in the Ostschweitz. We had a most excellent time. There were nineteen elders present, out of the sixty in the mission. We had the same halls in which we held meetings at Winterthur and Zürich when you were with us on our visit through the mission. I will not attempt to give you a detailed report, but will simply state that the Saints gathered in goodly numbers from a considerable distance around, and the joyful feelings and spiritual feast characteristic of such Latter-day Saint gatherings can be better imagined than described. I will leave you to judge what a royally good time we enjoyed on Christmas and the day following. The frequent remark was made afterwards, that it was the best conference we had ever had. All returned to their various fields with a zeal and determination to do their utmost for the spreading of the glorious Gospel. We returned to

Berne and spent a happy New Year's day with the Saints in that branch in carrying out an excellent program we had prepared some weeks previously. I invited Brother Brigham T. Cannon down from München to have a breath of free air and enjoy the sweets of liberty for a few days. He and my Brother Joseph came home with us and had a very pleasant visit. Reports come from Germany that the police have cited the Elders and some Saints to appear in the police courts as Nürnberg, Chemnitz, Dresden, and Berlin. What the police have on foot, or what the outcome will be, I do not know, but have advised the Elders to be very cautious and have asked the Lord to over-rule all for the best interests of His cause that we are striving to forward in these lands; I trust no evil will come out of the present movements.

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE.

THE Birmingham Conference convened at the Latter-day Saints' Chapel, Hunter's Vale, off Farm Street, Hockley, Birmingham, Sunday, January 19, 1896. Meetings were held at 10:30 a.m., and 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. There were present from Zion, the Traveling Elders of the Birmingham Conference; Anthon H. Lund, President of the European Mission; A. L. Booth and John H. Burrows of the Liverpool office; Joseph Barker, President of, and James Tucker, Traveling Elder in, the Cheltenham Conference; H. A. Tuckett, President of the Nottingham Conference; A. P. Kesler and A. C. Morris, Traveling Elders in the London Conference; W. S. Romney, Traveling Elder in the Sheffield Conference; and A. E. Hyde of Salt Lake City.

We had a beautiful fine day and the meetings were well attended by Saints, (some from other conferences) friends and many strangers; in the evening the chapel was filled to its utmost capacity. The speakers of the day were (morning meeting) President V. P. Wells, W. S. Romney. A. P. Kesler, A. C. Morris, James Tucker, Joseph Barker, (afternoon service) John H. Burrows and President A. H. Lund, (evening service) A. L. Booth, A. E. Hyde, A. H. Lund and H. A. Tuckett.

In the afternoon a statistical report and a report of the Traveling Elders' labors for the six months ending January 19, 1896, were read as follows: Seventies 11; Elders 21; Priests 7; Teachers 7; Deacons 6; members 231; total officers and members 281. Tracts distributed 36,991; houses visited 381; in-door meetings 196; open-air meetings 4; Gospel conversations 893; books loaned 69; books given away 41; books sold 39. Baptisms 9; confirmations 9; administrations 132; ordinations 3; children blessed 6; emigrations 2; births 2; died 2; removed 1.

The general authorities of the Church and of the European Mission were presented by President Wells and unanimously sustained. Elder V. P. Wells was sustained as President of the Birmingham Conference, and the Traveling Elders were sustained to labor in the districts as follows: Edward Southwick and Henry O. Baddeley in the Birmingham district; Joseph S. Mousley and James Holley in the Maxstoke district; John H. Walker, Thomas S. Newman and Jobe Hill in the Wolverhampton district;

Walter S. Lamoreaux and Joseph E. Booth in the Worcester and Hereford district; Willard C. Burgon and Frederick B. Goold in the Northampton district.

Monday, January 20, 1896, at 10 a.m., a Priesthood meeting was held in the Latter-day Saints' Chapel, the Elders reported their labors for the past six months and received many valuable instructions and much timely advice from President Lund and the visiting brethren.

In the evening the Elders, Saints, and many friends met at the chapel and a program was rendered consisting of recitations, instrumental music, songs, etc., refreshments were served at 10:30 p.m.

A good spirit prevailed during the conference, the speakers being full of the Holy Ghost, the singing was excellent, and the chapel was beautifully and tastefully decorated by the sisters, and much praise is due them for making it look so unique and for assisting in making the conference a success. In all we have had a great time of rejoicing and received strength to pursue our labors, for which we thank Him who is the Giver of all good things. EDWARD SOUTHWICK, Clerk of Conference.

TEA DRINKING.

TEA drinking is coming under the severe lash of the medical profession, and a physician in an article in a recent monthly says that tea worship, carried on by its fair devotees in the prettiest drawing rooms, in the smartest of tea-gowns, with the daintiest of silver and china, may to a large extent disarm them as to the real nature of this insidious, but implacable fiend. He further says the evil effects of the tannin in tea are readily seen by its ravages on the throats and stomachs of tea tasters. It is well known that dyspepsia is often caused and increased by tea drinking; it is harmful in two ways. It should be taken neither by those suffering from varieties of heart affection, nor by those having a feeble circulation. Mental depression and extremes of melancholia and even suicidal monomania, the doctor also attributes to tea drinking. This view is supported by the lately published statistics concerning the increase of lunacy among the lower orders, considered due in a measure to the excessive amount of tea drinking now prevalent among them, and those acquainted with the ways of the tea drinkers of this class, know that the teapot is never off the hob, and that tea is drunk at every meal, as well as between meals. It is ancient history to say that the tannin is the cause of all the mischief, and that tea should be drunk immediately after it is made. So extensive has this knowledge on the subject become, that at afternoon tea in fashionable drawing-rooms, both in town and country, people are trying their hardest to put it into practice. No easy matter, for tea-makers, both ladies and servants, will not go with them, their notions of hospitality being too strong to admit of offering a cup of weak tea to a valued friend or a new acquaintance. They struggle to decline the strong beverage by saying, "Not quite so strong, please," or "May I have a little water?" when there is no room left in the cup for it, are requests so irritating and trouble-giving to a smiling but embarrassed

teamaker that a good-natured guest finds it easier to swallow the bitter potion than to make a fuss about it.

HEALED OF BLINDNESS.

As near as I can remember, it was in the month of June, 1879, that I was engaged in building a rock cellar for Vernee Halliday, in Provo City. About noon, after finishing the walls as high as I could from the inside, before drawing my lines off to go outside, I looked along the wall to see if every rock was in keeping with the line, when I saw a small corner of a rock a little out of place. With my hammer I tapped it very lightly to bring it to its proper position, keeping my eye along the line to see when it came to its place. While doing this I felt as if something had touched my eye, but nothing to cause me any uneasiness. At the time I did not think more of the affair.

I worked all the afternoon and the next forenoon, but felt my eye beginning to get very hot, and water came therefrom. In the afternoon my eye became worse, and was inflamed to such on extent that I could not see; my head also became so affected that about four o'clock I was obliged to cease work and go home. Arriving there my wife, seeing my eye in such an inflamed condition, got me into a dark room, and from that time till very early the next morning she used about two packets of tea in making strong lotions to bathe my eye to keep down the inflammation. At four o'clock in the morning I got an handkerchief on my eye, and went away to arouse Dr. W. R. Pike. When I arrived at his house he was attending a man from Payson. This done, he asked me what he could do for me. I told him of the inflammation of my eye and the pain in my head, and said I wanted him to examine and see what was the matter with it, or to tell the cause of my suffering. After examining my eye he said there was one-third of the lens of my eye entirely destroyed. The centre of the lens was gone and only a little on each edge remained. He said it had been struck with something rough like a rock, and that I would never see again with that eye. He described the transparency of the eye, and assured me that it could not by nature be restored. He said it was likely to take away the use of my other eye at any time, and that a white opaque substance would grow over my eye so that I could never see any more.

After leaving his office, I met on the street a Mr. Harrison, who had formerly lived in Salt Lake City. He told me of Doctor Pratt, who had just returned to Salt Lake from the East, where she had been studying the eye, and had done a great deal of good. I therefore went the same day to see her, but had then to be led by my wife. When we arrived in Salt Lake it was too late for her to do anything with my eye that day, and she told us to come back the following morning at ten o'clock. We did so, and after hearing my story she examined my injured member by the aid of many glasses, and told me the same as Dr. W. R. Pike had done. She allowed my wife to look through the glass at my eye, and she described its appearance as that of a wound from which a dog had bitten a piece. Dr. Pratt then took me by the front hair, and pushing my head back, was

about to take my eye out. I inquired what she was about to do, and she answered me that she was going to take it out and put in a glass one.

My wife seized her arm, and I scrambled out of the chair saying, "No you don't, or you will shoot me first."

I then asked if she could give me a lotion to check the pain. She took a small vial and put one drop of its contents in my eye, which immediately took away all pain. She then gave me a prescription, which I had filled, and then went home.

Just as both doctors had said, the opaque matter gradually grew on my eye for three or four weeks, at the end of which time I could not distinguish my own wife standing so that her dress touched my clothes, unless she spoke. Up to this time I had not been able to work, and I was getting dissatisfied.

About that time the quarterly conference took place in Provo. On the Sunday morning I found my way to the conference, still with the napkin on my eye. There were present of the general authorities, President George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith and Apostle John Henry Smith. During the morning meeting I made up my mind to have them administer to me for my sight, and at the close of the services I went to the vestry where they were attending to this ordinance for many who were there before me. When I entered, Brothers Joseph F. and John Henry Smith came and shook hands with me, enquiring what was the matter, and what I wanted them to do. They introduced me to Brother George Q. Cannon, whom I had never before known. I knew the Brothers Smith in the old country. I was told to take a seat, and when they had attended to the rest they would administer to me, and that I would get my sight. After they got through with the others they came to me. I cannot now call to mind who anointed, or who confirmed it, but this I do know that from that very hour, the white, opaque matter that had gradually grown over my eye as gradually began to disappear, until my eyesight was completely restored, and has remained to this date as perfect as it ever has been. To this fact myself and family can testify, and others yet living in Provo.

While suffering with this affliction I reasoned that as God made the eye, He also knew how to repair and restore a damaged one, and I testify to all to whom this may come, that He did restore sight to the blind one.—ROBERT MCKINLEY, *in Juvenile Instructor.*

UTAH NEWS.

(Summarized from State papers.)

The ninth annual show of the Utah Poultry Association took place early in the month. The exhibition of chickens, ducks, geese, pigeons, and rabbits, was the finest ever made in Utah.

Representative Allen lost no time in taking his seat in Congress at Washington. He was in that city when Utah assumed statehood, and immediately applied for admission to the floor of the house. His case was referred to a committee, which reported favorably next day and he was sworn in on January 7, although his credentials were not then signed by the new governor.

The Davis County paper reports that a serious drawback has been met in the supply of water from ordinary wells since the artesian wells were driven on the lower ground. Every year at certain seasons the wells in the settlements go dry. Some of the people have tried to overcome the difficulty by digging their wells deeper, but the next season the trouble has recurred, as each year the water sinks lower than before.

President Cleveland has appointed John A. Marshal as federal judge for Utah. There were several applicants for the position, one of the foremost being ex-Governor West. Judge Judd has been appointed United States Attorney, and Nat. M. Brigham United States Marshal. These two latter held the same positions under the territorial government until it ended. Mr. Marshal was at one time Probate Judge of Salt Lake County.

The three judges elected to the Supreme Court bench:—Zane, Bartch, and Miner—soon after receiving word that Utah was a state, met together and drew lots to determine the length of their official terms. The drawing resulted in giving Judge Zane three years, Judge Bartch five years, and Judge Miner seven years. This arrangement makes Judge Zane Chief Justice, as the constitution of the State provides that the Judge with the shortest time to serve shall hold that position.

The directors of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society sprung a pleasant surprise on its President, John R. Winder, just before the statehood parade commenced on January 6. He was presented with a beautiful gold headed cane, accompanied by the expressed wish that he might carry it until he was a hundred years old. Mr. Winder has been connected with the society from its organization in 1856 up to the present, and has been one of the most energetic workers in behalf of territorial fairs, nearly always having something to exhibit on these occasions.

The indications are that Utah will hold a semi-centennial exposition in 1897 as a jubilee in honor of the entrance of the pioneers into Salt Lake valley. The *Deseret News* offered the suggestion a few weeks ago, and since then several prominent and influential men have written to that paper favoring the idea. As Utah is making the initiative move, she of course will be the principal state interested, but there is no doubt that all the western states and territories will be asked to co-operate with her, since the settlement of Utah was directly the cause of people's emigrating to these other localities.

The two houses of the State Legislature organized with the following officers: Senate—George M. Cannon, president; Lillie R. Pardee, secretary; James Clove, minute clerk; F. J. Hendershott, enrolling clerk; O. E. Carey, engrossing clerk; Abner Crane, sergeant-at-arms; Peter Thygerson, doorkeeper; M. L. Ritchie, clerk of judiciary committee; Emma Maddison, committee stenographer; Joseph Cameron, messenger; M. L. Perry, page: House officers—Presley Denney, speaker; William M. Thompson, chief clerk; Horace W. Woolley, enrolling and engrossing clerk; Arthur Stayner, minute clerk; Louis Hyams, docket clerk; L. C. Johnson, and Henrietta Clark, committee clerks; W. H. Clark, sergeant-at-arms; Joseph T. Atkins, watchman; A. L. Toone, and Jesse W. Fox, messengers. The governor's message was read and the two houses went to work immediately.

The Utah Forestry Association has decided to ask President Cleveland to withdraw three large tracts of unsurveyed land in Utah from settlement, and to set them apart as a reservation to cultivate timber and also that the water supply of the most thickly settled portions of the state may be kept pure. The movement has been under way for nearly two years, but was not made public until recently. Maps have been drawn showing the contour of the tracts, and copies of these have been filed with the Secretary of the Interior at Washinghton. It is thought that if proper steps are taken, it will not be many years before many of the places where timber has been wilfully destroyed in the past will be again covered with trees; this will prevent the snows from melting so soon in the spring and hence will be beneficial to agriculture in keeping the water back until it is needed. The tracts embrace portions of the Uintah and Wasatch ranges of mountains in Uintah, Summit, Weber, Wasatch, Salt Lake, Utah, Emery, and other countries, the altitude ranging from that above 6,000 to that over 8,000 feet above the sea.